

Failures Are Successes-in-waiting

What do young entrepreneurs fear most? No doubt, it is FAILURE! Would my enterprise fail? What if I lose good money as a result? What if I go bankrupt? This primal fear grows and grows in the mind and pulls him back. Often it leads to inaction.

Let us catch hold of the bull by its horns! What actually is Failure? Failure is only a temporary setback in the journey of life towards Achievement. One must learn from the experience of failure. One must overcome difficulties and dare to go on. Jawaharlal Nehru said: “Success comes only to those who dare and act. It never comes to the timid”

Are there people who NEVER fail? The answer is NONE! All of us fail at sometime or other. The child learns to walk erect, after many many failures! His (her) first attempts are always failures. He (she) falls down flat at every attempt initially. No child ever succeeds in the first attempt and start walking all on a sudden. The same is true of all human activities. We learn cycling after repeated failed attempts. We learn driving after several failures. The old adage says “Failures are the stepping stones to success”. We know all this intellectually; but when it comes to a failure in our own enterprise, we get emotionally depressed!

Charles F Kettering , a great inventor and a genius in innovation, once said: “ If I can remove this fear of failure from young minds, then I can make them achieve anything”

Remember that the man who said this was an inventor who piled up more than some 140 very successful patents. His most famous invention was the electric self-starter for automobiles, which revolutionized car manufacturing industry.. Other Kettering inventions are the leaded gasoline (petrol), Freon gas for refrigeration, and so on. He soon became a multimillionaire. He later became Head of Research at General Motors Company and, along with the President of GM, Alfred Sloan, founded the world renowned humanitarian institution, the Sloan - Kettering Institute for Cancer Research.

Some of the Kettering dictums are thought provoking. Let me give a few selected ones for you!

- 1) “An inventor fails 999 times, and if he succeeds once, he's in. He treats his failures simply as practice shots”.
- 2) “Problems are the price of progress. Don't bring me anything but trouble! Good news weakens me”.
- 3) “Keep on going, and the chances are that you will stumble on something, perhaps when you are least expecting it. I never heard of anyone ever stumbling on something sitting down.”

So, consider FAILURES as SUCCESSES-IN-WAITING! Banishing the Fear of Failure is the first essential prerequisite for the journey through the Road to Success.

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